

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant is canceling claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2 and 7 have been amended. Claims 8-19 have been added. As a result claims 2-19 are pending for examination with claims 2, 8 and 15 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing, claim 2 has been rewritten into independent form and claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 2. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7 are allowable.

Election/Restriction

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the election of species requirement such that claim 3 is no longer withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mather (U.S. Patent 1,840,591). By this amendment, claim 1 has been cancelled and claim 7 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 2. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Oath/Declaration

The Examiner indicates that the Declaration does not comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.63(c) because the Declaration does not acknowledge the filing of any foreign application. Specifically, the Examiner states that the Declaration does not appear to include a proper application number for the Italian Patent Application filed on January 27, 2000.

The Applicant has obtained the Filing Receipt received from the Italian Patent Office for the application filed on January 27, 2000. According to the Filing Receipt (copy enclosed), the application was given M02000A000006. Therefore, the Declaration filed on July 23, 2001

designates the correct prior foreign application. As such, the Applicant respectfully requests that the requirement for a new Declaration be withdrawn.

New Claims

The Applicant has added new claim 8-19 directed to the concept embodied in claim 2. It is respectfully submitted that these new claims are in allowable condition. In particular, none of the prior art of record teaches, *inter alia*, “a secondary frame coupled to the primary frame and movable with the vehicle engaging member, and a supporting member coupled to the secondary frame, the supporting member adapted to support an instrument”, as claimed in claim 8. Claims 9-14 depend directly or indirectly from claim 8 and are patentable for at least the same reason as claim 8.

Further, none of the prior are of record teaches, *inter alia*, “a secondary frame rigidly coupled to the post; and a supporting member coupled to the secondary frame, the supporting member being adapted to support an instrument”, as claimed in claim 15. Claims 16-19 depend directly or indirectly from claim 15 and are patentable for at least the same reason as claim 15.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
Giuliano Vignoli, Applicant

By: 

Neil P. Ferraro, Reg. No. 39,188
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2211
Telephone: (617) 720-3500

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